

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 77**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Thomson and Perata**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members: Ackerman, Aguiar, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Baca, Baugh, Bordonaro, Bowen, Brewer, Brown, Bustamante, Campbell, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cunneen, Davis, Escutia, Figueroa, Floyd, Frusetta, Gallegos, Goldsmith, Granlund, Havice, Hertzberg, Honda, House, Kaloogian, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Leach, Lempert, Leonard, Machado, Margett, Martinez, Mazzoni, McClintock, Migden, Morrissey, Murray, Napolitano, Oller, Ortiz, Pacheco, Papan, Poochigian, Prenter, Pringle, Scott, Shelley, Strom-Martin, Sweeney, Takasugi, Thompson, Torlakson, Villaraigosa, Vincent, Washington, Wayne, Wildman, Woods, and Wright)*

September 9, 1997

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to  
Mental ~~Health~~ *Illness* Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 77, as amended, Thomson. Mental ~~Health~~ *Illness* Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week from October 5, 1997, through October 11, 1997, Mental ~~Health~~ *Illness* Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Mental illness affects millions of  
2 Americans annually and costs our nation billions of dollars  
3 each year in lost productivity, unemployment, and  
4 incarceration from untreated mental illness; and

5 WHEREAS, Each year, 3 million or more of our young  
6 people are stricken with mental illness, interfering with  
7 their personal development, their emotional maturation,  
8 and their educational preparation, thus seriously  
9 impacting our nation's greatest natural resource; and

10 WHEREAS, Mental illness remains stigmatized, widely  
11 feared, and greatly misunderstood, yet the latest medical  
12 research overwhelmingly finds that serious mental illness  
13 is a biological brain disorder which can be effectively  
14 treated with the newest psychotropic medications,  
15 allowing victims to resume their normal, productive lives;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, What began as an effort to increase  
18 Congressional awareness of mental illness in 1983, has  
19 grown into a nationwide weeklong observance; and

20 WHEREAS, By Congressional Resolution, the first full  
21 week of October is known as Mental Illness Awareness  
22 Week; and

23 WHEREAS, During this week, thousands of dedicated  
24 mental health care professionals, representatives of  
25 treatment facilities, members, families, and friends of the  
26 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, members of the  
27 National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association,  
28 members of the American Psychiatric Association,  
29 volunteers in the National Mental Health Association, the  
30 Obsessive Compulsive Foundation, members of local  
31 mental health associations, many civic groups, public  
32 officials, religious organizations, and concerned citizens  
33 join in a true grassroots campaign to bring information,  
34 education, hope, and treatment to our communities and  
35 our state; and

36 WHEREAS, Such dedicated individuals hold mental  
37 health fairs and candlelight vigils, produce special  
38 television programs, and screen public education films.  
39 They also give countless speeches and presentations in  
40 classrooms, at PTAs, to local governments and civil



1 leaders and to civic groups in California to enhance public  
2 awareness of mental illness, to promote greater  
3 understanding for those who suffer from the disabling  
4 symptoms of mental illness, and to eliminate from our  
5 state the stigma associated with mental illness; now,  
6 therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*  
8 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the week of October 5,  
9 1997, through October 11, 1997, is hereby declared Mental  
10 ~~Health~~ *Illness* Awareness Week in California.

